

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1           1.       (previously presented) A portable camera device capable of operation with a  
2 host platform, the portable camera device comprising:  
3           a housing;  
4           a USB plug integrally adapted to the housing of the portable camera device to  
5 facilitate direct coupling of the portable camera device via the USB plug to a USB socket of  
6 the host platform;  
7           a non-volatile memory in communication with said USB plug;  
8           a digital camera, integrally formed with said non-volatile memory, for capturing  
9 image and/or audio information, said non-volatile memory capable of storing said image  
10 and/or audio information; and  
11           a microprocessor for at least in part formatting said image and/or audio information in  
12 a standard image and/or audio file format compatible with the host platform.

1           2.       (previously presented) A portable camera device as recited in claim 1, said  
2 non-volatile memory comprising flash memory.

1           3.       (previously presented) A portable camera device as recited in claim 1, said  
2 USB plug capable of coupling to a USB port of the host platform.

1           4.       (previously presented) A portable camera device as recited in claim 1, said  
2 standard image and/or audio file format comprising a JPEG file format.

1           5.       (previously presented) A portable camera device as recited in claim 1, said  
2 standard image and/or audio file format comprising a GIF file format.

1           6.       (previously presented) A portable camera device as recited in claim 1, said  
2 standard image and/or audio file format comprising a PICT II file format.

1           7.       (previously presented) A portable camera device as recited in claim 1, said  
2       standard image and/or audio file format comprising an MPEG file format.

1           8.       (previously presented) A portable camera device as recited in claim 1, further  
2       comprising a power supply circuit for receiving power from the host platform and providing  
3       said power to components of the portable camera device.

1           9.       (previously presented) A portable camera device as recited in claim 1, further  
2       comprising a power source for providing power to components of the portable camera device.

1           10.      (canceled)

1           11.      (canceled)

1           12.      (previously presented) A method of capturing image and/or audio information  
2       and uploading the image and/or audio information to a host platform, comprising the steps of:

3           (a)      capturing image and/or audio data using a portable camera device, said  
4       portable camera device having a housing and a USB plug integrally adapted to the housing to  
5       facilitate direct coupling of the portable camera device via the USB plug to a USB socket of  
6       the host platform;

7           (b)      digitizing said image and/or audio data captured in said step (a);

8           (c)      processing said image and/or audio data digitized in said step (b) into a form  
9       compatible with the host platform; and

10          (d)      uploading said image and/or audio data from the portable camera device to the  
11       host platform via a coupling of the USB plug to a USB socket of the host platform.

1           13.      (original) A method of capturing image and/or audio information as recited in  
2       claim 12, further comprising a step (e) of storing said image and/or audio data in a volatile  
3       memory.

1           14.   (previously presented) A method of authenticating an operator seeking access  
2 to information on a storage medium, comprising the steps of:  
3           (a)   capturing image and/or audio identification data via a digital camera, said  
4 digital camera having a housing and a USB plug integrally adapted to the housing to facilitate  
5 direct coupling of the digital camera via the USB plug to a USB socket of a host platform;  
6           (b)   comparing at least portions of said image and/or audio identification data  
7 against a template stored in a memory; and  
8           (c)   allowing access to the information if the image and/or audio identification data  
9 matches the stored template upon comparison in said step (b).

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